

Serial No.: 09/780,288
Examiner: Kevin T. Bates

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

monitoring, by a network access controller, data being transmitted from and received by a client system for identifying data services which necessitate one of a higher transmission rate and higher quality standard than a first transmission service subscription;

receiving, in the network access controller, a request from the client system for a data service to be provided by a server system, the request being directed to the server system, wherein the data service is identified as a data service necessitating one of a higher transmission rate and higher quality standard than the first transmission service subscription;

determining if the client system is authorized for the data service; if the client system is authorized for the data service, then sending the request to the server system; and

issuing a premium billing for the data service based on the increase in the one of transmission rate and quality standard above the first transmission service subscription.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller monitors individual packets passing between the client and the server.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller identifies the request by analyzing each packet transmitted from the client system.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller determines if the client system is pre-authorized for the data service.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller determines if the

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client system is authorized by for a data service by requesting authorization from a management system.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the client system is authorized for a data service after a credit determination.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user of the client is billed according to the specific data services authorized for the client system.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network access controller discards any request from the client system which is not authorized.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing, in the network access controller, statistical data relating to the data services delivered to the client system.

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10. (Currently Amended) A network access controller, having at least a processor and a memory, comprising:

means for monitoring data being transmitted from and received by a client system for identifying data services which necessitate one of a higher transmission rate and higher quality standard than a first transmission service subscription;

means for receiving a request from the client system for a data service to be provided by a server system, the request being directed to the server system, wherein the data service is identified as a data service necessitating one of a higher transmission rate and higher quality standard than the first transmission service subscription;

means for determining if the client system is authorized for the data service;

means for sending the request to the server system, if the client system is authorized for the data service; and

means for issuing a premium billing for the data service based on the increase in the one of transmission rate and quality standard above the first transmission service subscription.

11. (Original) The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller monitors individual packets passing between the client and the server.

12. (Original) The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller identifies the request by analyzing each packet transmitted from the client system.

13. (Original) The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller determines if the client system is pre-authorized for the data service.

14. (Original) The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller determines if the client system is authorized by for a data service by requesting authorization from a management system.

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15. (Original) The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the client system is authorized for a data service after a credit determination.

16. (Original) The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the user of the client is billed according to the specific data services authorized for the client system.

17. (Original) The network access controller of claim 10, wherein the network access controller discards any request from the client system which is not authorized.

18. (Original) The network access controller of claim 10, further comprising means for storing, in the network access controller, statistical data relating to the data services delivered to the client system.